

The following Notice to Mariners is published for general information

**Australia – Victoria**

**No. 162 - 2024**

**PORT OF MELBOURNE  
FAIRWAY THROUGH PORT PHILLIP HEADS  
CHANGE TO TIDAL STREAM LIMITS**

**Date:** 19 April 2024

**Refers:** NtM 389 - 23

**Details:** Mariners and port users are advised of changes to tidal stream limits that apply to vessels when transiting the Fairway Through Port Phillip Heads.

The following amendment to **Harbour Master's Directions, Section 3.12.3.** is **effective immediately:**

- for tankers with a draught of <11.6 m constrained to the Great Ship Channel, transit is restricted during periods when the flood and ebb tidal streams are over 3 kt

Here attached updated **Harbour Master's Directions, Section 3.12.3.** and **Table 3 (i).**

For further information, please email the Navigation Services department at [NavigationServices@ports.vic.gov.au](mailto:NavigationServices@ports.vic.gov.au).

**Charts & Publications affected:** Harbour Master's Directions – Melbourne Edition 13.1, September 2023

**Further notice:** No further notice will be issued.



**Warwick Laing  
Harbour Master  
Melbourne**

### 3.12.3 Tidal stream restrictions

Masters of vessels are advised that tidal stream limits apply to vessels when transiting the Fairway Through Port Phillip Heads. Transit restrictions relate to the periods of strong tidal flows and apply as follows:

- for low-powered vessels transit is restricted to an adverse tidal stream  $\leq 3$  kt. This restriction may be amended subject to the approval of the Harbour Master for an individual vessel. Pilots are to assess the vessel on her first arrival and departure to the port prior to requesting dispensation.
- for tankers with a draught of  $< 11.6$  m constrained to the Great Ship Channel, transit is restricted during periods when the flood and ebb tidal streams are over 3 kt
- for tankers with a draught of 11.6 m to 14.0 m, transit is restricted during periods when the flood and ebb tidal streams are over 3 kt
- tankers with a draught  $> 14.0$  m are to transit the Heads at slack water ebb with a tidal stream of  $< 1$  kt and swell height  $< 2$  m
- all vessels (except tankers) with a draught deeper than 12.1 m
  - ◆ inbound transit restricted during periods when the flood and ebb tidal streams are 5 kt and over
  - ◆ outbound transit restricted during periods when the flood tidal stream is 5 kt and over, or the ebb tidal stream is 4 kt and over
- container vessels with an LOA  $> 310$  m and  $\leq 337$  m and/or with a beam  $> 42.9$  m and  $\leq 45.6$  m:
  - ◆ inward and outward transit is restricted to tidal stream  $< 2.0$  kt
  - ◆ tidal stream limit can be increased to 2.5 kt for vessels not constrained to the Great Ship Channel, subject to risk assessment carried out by the Master and the Pilot, with permission from the VTS.

These restrictions are summarized in Table 3 (i).

Table 3(i) Tidal Stream Limits

<b>Tidal stream limits</b>			
<b>The designated vessel type is not permitted to transit the Fairway Through Port Phillip Heads during periods when the rate of the tidal stream reaches the following limits.</b>			
Vessel type	Inbound or outbound	Tide flooding	Tide ebbing
Low powered vessels <sup>1</sup>	In	5 kt	3 kt
	Out	3 kt	5 kt
Tanker draught $< 11.6$ m constrained to the Great Ship Channel	In and Out	3 kt	3 kt
Tanker draught $\geq 11.6$ m to $\leq 14.0$ m	In and Out	3 kt	3 kt
Tanker draught $> 14.0$ m	In	1 kt	1 kt
Non-tanker draught $> 12.1$ m	In	5 kt	5 kt
	Out	5 kt	4 kt
Oversize vessels	In and Out	2.0 <sup>2</sup> kt	2.0 <sup>2</sup> kt
<sup>1</sup> Subject to Pilot's assessment and adverse tidal stream <sup>2</sup> Tidal stream limit can be increased to 2.5 kt for vessels not constrained to the Great Ship Channel, subject to risk assessment carried out by the Master and the Pilot, with permission from the VTS.			